ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bid-opening device 20 receives from each bidding device 10_m a bidding price index $\gamma_m = g(h^k(IV_m))$ (where IV_m is an initial value, h^k indicates k-times processing with a one-way function h and g is a one-way function) and its identifier ID_m. The received information is stored on a common bulletin board 25. $D_m = h^k(IV_m)$ (where $D_m = g(D_m)$ is generated with k set as the upper limit value K of the bidding price. The bulletin board 25 is checked for γ_m which matches this D_m. If no match is found, m is incremented by one, and the check for γ_m-D_m matching is made for each of m bidding devices. Upon completion of the matching for all the bidding devices, k is decremented by one, and a check is made for for γ_m which matches $D_m = g(h^k(IV_m))$, and the index k for which they match is determined as the highest price bid. The bid-opening device 20 outputs that k and the identifier ID_m of γ_m.